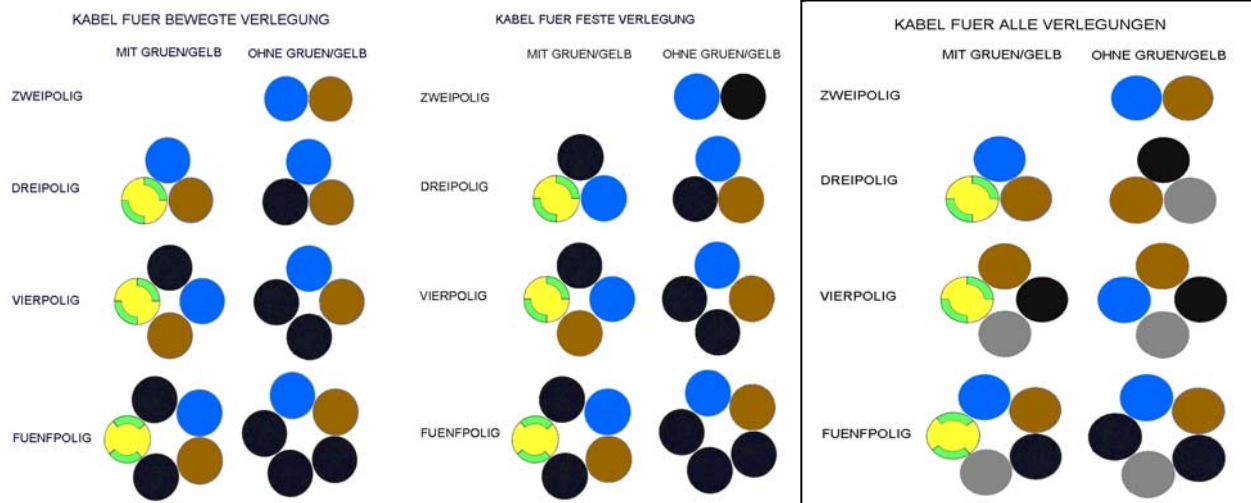


Colour-Coding for Cables and Wires

Old schema of colour-coding acc.
harmonized document HD 308 S1

**New schema of colour-coding acc.
harmonized document HD 308 S2
valid from 1.4.2006**



From six core: - J - Construction: 1 green-yellow core, further cores back with embossed numbering
- O – construction: All cores back with embossed numbering

Exceptions: a) 4-core with green-yellow alternative only for particular applications: Green-yellow, blue, brown, black
a) 3-core without green-yellow alternative only for particular applications: Blue, brown, black

What are the principal enhancements of the new system?

The principal enhancement is the introduction of the "grey" core colour for an outer conductor. The colours and the colour sequences in the cable are shown in the tables above. **The arrangement of the core colours for earth conductors and neutral lines is unchanged, that is: green-yellow and blue.**

DIN VDE 0293-308 (VDE 0293 part 308): 2003-01 provides for 2 exceptions whereby these variants, marked with the footnote "a)" or "b)", are applicable only for particular applications. These special applications are defined in DIN EN 60446 (VDE 0198): 1999-10, section 3.2.2. Accordingly for particular applications where there is no danger of confusion and no neutral line existing in the system, the blue core can be used as external conductor. However, no colour other than blue may be used for the neutral line. The colour light-blue is generally replaced by blue in this colour system.

Transitional period between old and new system with identification of cable cores and wires through colours

In general, standards cover comparable products. By referring to product standards in contracts it is possible to dispense with a considerable proportion of specification details. However there are exceptions, namely in the case of transitional periods with revised standards or "replacement standards" contingent on harmonisation. In this case the old and the new definitions are equally valid during the agreed transitional period. This applies also for the core identification of cables and wires. By harmonising the core colours of cables and wires through the installation technology standards committees, the wiring industry was granted the time period of 01.10.2001 to 01.04.2006, to change over its product range to the new core colours and to dispose of their existing stock with the old identification.

During the transitional period users of the cable and wiring, and the dealers, have the opportunity to complete projects that they have already started with the previously used products and reduce old stocks correspondingly. The electrical trade have indicated that from their side there should be no difficulties in effecting the changeover. The cable manufacturers intend to carry out the changeover as quickly as possible, but due to the various different operational conditions it is not possible to nominate a harmonised changeover date. The rough target for this is the end of 2003 so that from 01.01.2004 the proportion of products on the market with the new core identification system will increase sharply.